

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-25 are presently pending in this case. Claims 6-12 and 14-17 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 1, 3, 19, and 21 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1, 3, 19, and 21 are supported by the original claims. Amended Claims 1, 3, 19, and 21 add no new matter.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 4-5, 13, 18-19, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Trindade (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,103). However, Claims 2, 3, 20, and 21 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise are indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that Claims 2, 3, 20, and 21 include allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 is amended to include all the limitations of canceled Claim 2, which is noted as including allowable subject matter. Claim 19 is amended to include all the limitations of canceled Claim 20, which is also noted as including allowable subject matter.

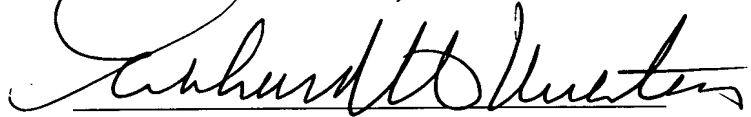
Application No. 10/059,153
Reply to Office Action of April 13, 2004

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', written over a horizontal line.

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